

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus which needs to periodically execute maintenance operation after activation, comprising:

5 timer means, having a register in which a flag is written when an abnormality occurs in a battery, for counting time on the basis of power supplied from the battery;

nonvolatile storage means;

10 internal time counting means for counting up internal time on the basis of time read out from said timer means;

timer abnormality processing means for, when the flag is written in the register upon activating the apparatus, writing information representing occurrence of the abnormality in said storage means, setting  
15 predetermined time as the internal time, clearing the flag, and setting the predetermined time in said timer means; and

20 maintenance designation means for designating execution of the maintenance operation on the basis of the internal time.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reset means for, when the information  
25 representing occurrence of the abnormality is written in said storage means upon reception of time information from a connected host device, setting the

received time information as the internal time,  
clearing the information representing occurrence of the  
abnormality, and setting the predetermined time in said  
timer means.

5 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the  
battery of said timer means is so attached to be easily  
removed externally.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
the apparatus comprises an inkjet printhead which  
10 discharges ink and prints, and

the maintenance operation includes an operation  
of recovering discharge performance of said printhead.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said  
printhead comprises a thermal transducer for generating  
15 thermal energy to be applied to the ink so as to  
discharge the ink by using the thermal energy.

6. A method of controlling a printing apparatus  
which needs to periodically execute maintenance  
operation after activation and has timer means, having  
20 a register in which a flag is written when an  
abnormality occurs in a battery, for counting time on  
the basis of power supplied from the battery,  
comprising:

a counting step of counting up internal time on  
25 the basis of time read out from the timer means;

an abnormality processing step of, when the flag  
is written in the register upon activating the

apparatus, writing information representing occurrence of the abnormality in nonvolatile storage means, setting predetermined time as the internal time, clearing the flag, and setting the predetermined time  
5 in the timer; and

a maintenance designation step of designating execution of the maintenance operation on the basis of the internal time.